

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-11 ARA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

AID-05 /095 W

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R 301152Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3097

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1213

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, AO

SUBJ: CUBAN TROOPS TO LEAVE?

1. ACCORDING TO VENEZUELAN CHARGE' VILLEGAS, CUBAN AMBASSADOR ZORILLA MOZORRA HAS TOLD FMG THAT CUBA DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH ITS TROOPS TO REMAIN INDEFINITELY IN ANGOLA. AMBASSADOR ZORILLA REPORTEDLY TOLD NIGERIANS THAT "OUR SOLDIERS ARE TIRED AND IT IS COSTING US TOO MUCH MONEY." CUBA WOULD BE WILLING TO KEEP SMALL CONTINGENT IN ANGOLA, PARTICULARLY ADVISORS, PROVIDED MPLA WANTS THEM AND PROVIDED THEY ARE JOINED BY FORCES FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO VILLEGAS, CUBAN AMBASSADOR THINKS "PERHAPS A MAXIMUM OF TEN PERCENT" OF NON-ANGOLAN MILITARY FORCES UNDER MPLA MIGHT BE CUBAN. VILLEGAS SAYS CUBAN AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE NIGERIANS ARE SERIOUSLY THINKING OF SENDING TROOPS TO

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ANGOLA TO REPLACE CUBANS.

2. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR ZORILLA IS "QUITE BOURGOIS," ACCORDING TO VILLEGAS, WHO SAYS HE CRITICIZES HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. HE IS NOT REPORTED TO BE CRITICAL OF CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA, HOWEVER, AND IS SAID TO HAVE "TRAINED" MPLA CADRES DURING HIS RECENT SEVEN-YEAR TOUR AS AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL IN LAGOS LAST SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES TO RUN REPORTS OF VOLUNTEERS WANTING TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR URGING THE FMG TO SEND TROOPS, WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE IDEA BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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